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### REDINGTON REPORTS BENEFITS OF WILD-LIFE ADMINISTRATION

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Conserving the Nation's wild fowl benefits not only sportsmen and conservationists but also farmers, merchants, manufacturers, and others who supply the needs of hunters, Paul G. Redinton, chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, points out in his annual report to the Secretary of Agriculture. The report, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1932, was made public by Secretary Hyde today (November 19).

As an emergency measure, the department restricted the 1931 waterfowl hunting season to one month. Comprehensive surveys showed the success of this drastic action. The shortened season, says Mr. Redinton, saved millions of ducks, and this beneficial result, together with improved breeding conditions this spring, appeared to warrant a longer season for the fall and winter of 1932.

In line with the Federal conservation program, eight wild-life refuges were established for administration by the Biological Survey during the year, including one in Alaska. Five others were enlarged. When lack of funds threatened a curtailment of the migratory-bird refuge program, the Biological Survey appealed to the country to undertake the creation of supplementary community sanctuaries, particularly in the Northern Prairie States, and it has cooperated with other agencies by furnishing information regarding the biological fitness of proposed areas.

Another serious threat to the refuge program was removed when the Nebraska

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department of public works dismissed an application for a drainage project as detrimental to the public welfare, since it would have an injurious effect on the Federal migratory-bird refuge at Crescent Lake, Nebr. This decision, demonstrating the growing interest in the need for bird refuges, says Mr. Redington, should be influential in preserving similar places. Ill-advised drainage, he says, has destroyed many other sanctuary areas, and done irreparable injury to their wild-life resources, frequently without benefiting agriculture.

In the interests of crop growers and livestock owners, the bureau has continued to cooperate in the local control of injurious mammals and birds. Depreciation in the price of farmers' products has made it all the more necessary to prevent losses, says Mr. Redington, and the number of predatory animals taken has increased. In Texas, for instance, 17,475 bobcats, coyotes, mountain lions, wolves, and ocelots were killed by Federal and cooperative hunters,

In California, for another example, the bureau developed measures for blackbird and linnet control that resulted in 75 to 95 per cent reductions in crop losses. In Florida one campaign costing the farmers less than \$600 effectively controlled cottonrats that had previously caused \$150,000 a year damage to truck crops.

Throughout the country, the Biological Survey has carried on a campaign against brown rats, directing during the year more than 250 cooperative anti-rat campaigns. Five such campaigns suppressed a typhus fever outbreak in Texas. In connection with its efforts to improve methods used in rat control, the bureau has perfected a process for canning ready-mixed red-squill bait.

Fur farmers have been served by the bureau's investigations of color inheritance in foxes and by its experiments with wire floors and fur sheds. To reduce the cost of feeding foxes, the bureau has experimented with inexpensive protein substitutes for raw meat.

To counteract propaganda by unscrupulous promoters of rabbit raising, the bureau disseminated reliable information by means of mimeographed material, the radio, and the press. It also made arrangements with better-business bureaus and the Federal Trade Commission for curbing such practices -- not only for the protection of the public but also in the interests of the rabbit industry.

Research furnishes the basis for the service activities and regulatory work of the Biological Survey. Information on the food habits of birds and mammals, on their distribution and life habits, and on their diseases has increased during the year, and the bureau's facilities have been utilized by many research workers and students.

The Biological Survey is continuing its efforts for the protection and encouragement of all useful or harmless wild animals, birds, and reptiles; and in its control of harmful wild animals it has sought to safeguard all other species. Thus one of this year's accomplishments considered of outstanding importance by Mr. Redington is the perfection of a trap attachment for safeguarding birds and small animals during predatory-animal trapping operations.

At the close of the year plans were under way for investigating the status of big brown bears on Admiralty Island, Alaska, as the basis for a game-management plan to maintain the bear population at the productive capacity of the island. This work was in cooperation with the Alaska Game Commission and the Forest Service.

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